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Wednesday, January 20, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

## DECISIONS FOR DOUG

**Now officially Eagles head coach, Doug Pederson has a lot to decide.** **26-27**

**Man says he was attacked for speaking Arabic.** **4-5**

**Rupert Grint is no longer Ron Weasley.** **20**


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# MIXER AND MINGLE

**Your expert guide to actually meeting someone at a bar.** **23**

ISTOCK

## IRAN SANCTIONS LIFT

1 Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Tuesday welcomed the lifting of international sanctions against Iran, but warned that Tehran should remain wary of its old enemy the United States. State television reported that Khamenei wrote to President Hassan Rouhani to congratulate him on implementing the nuclear deal. REUTERS

## IMMIGRATION PLAN

2 The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear President Barack Obama's bid to resurrect his plan to shield more than 4 million illegal immigrants from deportation, a unilateral executive action he took in 2014 to bypass the Republican-led Congress. Obama's action was blocked by lower courts after Texas and 25 other Republican-governed states sued to stop it, contending he exceeded his presidential powers under the U.S. Constitution. The case will be argued before the high court in the coming months, with a ruling due by the end of June. REUTERS

## GLOBAL OUTAGES

3 Twitter said on Tuesday its social network was suffering ongoing outages on computers and phones and it was working to resolve issues which have been widely reported across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and North America. Both Twitter's web and mobile services began suffering outages concentrated in northern Europe. REUTERS

## 7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

### A BRISK JOG

7 A jogger braved the cold along the Schuylkill River path as temperatures fell to the mid-20s in Philadelphia on Tuesday.

MAIN PHOTO BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

## MAN ROBS WAWA

4 A man dressed much like a ninja wielded a huge knife and made off with a Wawa bag full of cash, according to the Philadelphia Police Department. Cops said that on Dec. 15 around 3:43 a.m., a man entered the Wawa at 10550 Knights Road in far northeast Philly with a large knife demanding money. JOSH KRUGER

## 'AFFLUENZA' TEEN

5 An attorney for a teenager who killed four people in the "affluenza" drunken-driving case may have been forced to go to Mexico with his mother after an apparent violation of his probation, a defense attorney said on Tuesday. A hearing on whether to move Ethan Couch's case to adult court lasted only a few minutes without a decision on Tuesday when a judge ruled his parents were not adequately notified about the hearing. A new hearing date was set for Feb. 19. REUTERS

## SUBWAY ATTACKER

6 A Philadelphia man was arrested after allegedly shoving a woman onto the subway tracks at the 40th and Market Street SEPTA station while yelling, "Kill! Kill! Kill!" Kenneth Grimes, 33, has been charged with aggravated assault stemming from a Sunday night unprovoked attack. JASON NUCKOLLS

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# Retirement in Reverse: Better read this if you are 62 or older and own a home in the U.S.

"I now have paid off my credit cards and have money in the bank and still have my home."
- Margaret Tennant, Summerfield, NC

## More than 1 million seniors have taken advantage of this "retirement secret."

Americans are living longer and home values are up across the US:

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With the cost of basic necessities such as food on the rise, it's no wonder why more and more seniors are using HECM reverse mortgages to turn their home equity into extra cash for retirement.

However, there are still millions of homeowners who could benefit from this FHA-insured loan but may simply not be aware of this "retirement secret."

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In fact, reverse mortgages took hold when president Ronald Reagan signed the FHA mortgage bill into law over 25 years ago to help senior citizens remain in their homes. They're simply an effective way for folks 62 and older to get the cash they need to enjoy their retirement.

Although today's HECM reverse mortgages have been greatly improved to provide greater protection for homeowners, there are still a lot of misconceptions. For example, many people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full in order to qualify for a reverse mortgage, which is not the case. One key benefit of a reverse mortgage is that it automatically pays off your existing mortgage, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for those on a fixed income.

Unfortunately, many homeowners who could benefit from a reverse mortgage don't even bother to get more information due to rumors they've heard. That's a shame because reverse mortgages are helping many seniors live a better life.

A recent survey by American Advisors Group (AAG), the nation's number one HECM reverse mortgage lender, found that 96% of their clients were satisfied with their reverse mortgages.

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NMLS# 9392 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). American Advisors Group (AAG) is headquartered at 3800 W. Chapman Ave., 3rd & 7th Floors, Orange CA, 92868. Mortgage Banker License #B500998– NYS Department of Financial Services.

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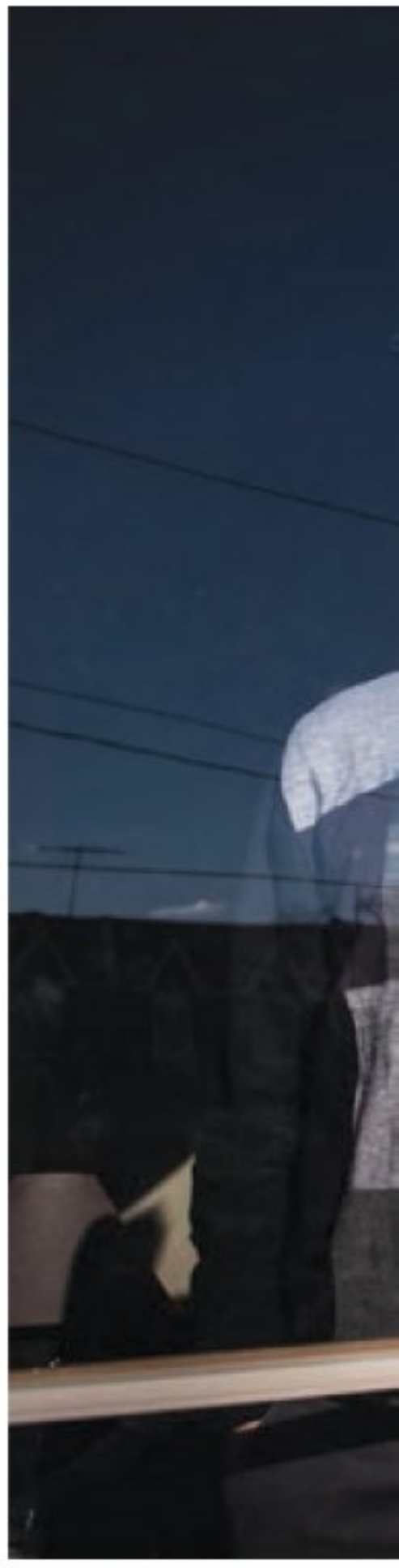
# Muslim says he was beaten in Philly attack for speaking in Arabic



Amine Aouam, 34, was attacked in Center City for speaking Arabic in what he believes was a hate crime.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A Moroccan immigrant to Philadelphia was brutally attacked over the weekend in Center City just for speaking his native tongue, he claimed.

Amine Aouam, 34, who is Muslim, said Tuesday while still shaky from the attack that he believes he was the victim of an anti-Arab or anti-Muslim hate crime.

"You think that would happen if I was speaking French or German? I don't," he said. "It was obviously a hate crime."

Aouam works as a valet at the Bellevue Hotel, and is also a full-time student at Temple, studying finance. Now he's missing work and school as he goes for follow-up CAT scans and MRIs while his pain slowly recedes — but the worst pain is psychological, he said.

"To be honest, the only bad thing that happened to me in this case is my heart is so broken now," he said. "They hate you because you talk something that they heard before and they don't like it."

The attack occurred after Aouam and a friend went out for a drink after work on Saturday night.

Around midnight, turning from Broad Street onto Sansom, they encountered a group of five or six white people. One woman in the group would not stop staring at them as they spoke in the Moroccan dialect of Arabic, which in and of itself is not entirely unusual, so Aouam greeted her.

"I said to her in Arabic, 'Good evening,' which is 'Masaa al-Khair.'

> *"You think that would happen if I was speaking French or German? I don't. It was obviously a hate crime."*
>
> Aouam

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Amine Aouam, 34, at his home CHARLES MOSTOLLER

She said 'What?' and I said, 'I just said, 'Good evening.' Then I walked. And the guy next to her was like 'Stop this s—!'"

Aouam's friend, Youssef Amarouch, remembers it a bit more clearly. "Take that s— you said and shove it up in your a—," he recalled the man saying.

The last thing Aouam remembered was trying to explain that he had only said a greeting — then he was waking up hours later at Jefferson University Hospital.

Amarouch said that as Aouam talked to one man, another sucker-punched him from behind.

"The guy came from his side and just punched him so bad. The first part of his body that hit the ground was his head," he said. "The whole thing happened in 10 seconds."

The Philadelphia Police Department confirmed that they are investigating the assault. Aouam is hopeful a nearby surveillance camera will help lead to the arrest of his attacker.

"I don't want this guy to go to jail or get banished. I just want to ask him, 'Why you do this?'" he said.

Going on seven years in the U.S., Aouam is fearful that "hate" is "increasing" right now.

"People have to wake up. They have to correct these mistakes. If we stay quiet, worse things are going to happen."

## BRIEF

**Cops seek ATM skimmers**
Philly police are seeking the public's help in identifying and locating three suspects wanted for fraud in connection with an ATM-skimming scam that happened last month in Overbrook.

The Southwest Detectives Division is on the lookout for three men wanted for installing a skimming device on the ATM machine at a Beneficial Savings Bank at 7622 City Avenue.

A skimming device is hard to detect and is attached to a debit card reader, such as an ATM machine. It's used to read an unsuspecting victim's personal information like a banking or checking account number and/or PIN number.

ATM surveillance video from Dec. 27 shows three young guys approaching the ATM.

The first perpetrator in the video is wearing a dark T-shirt, a black jacket, with black glasses and scruffy facial hair and is fidgeting with and installing the skimming device.

The second suspect pictured is wearing a red bubble jacket and red baseball cap.

He later returns with the two other males and removes the skimmer to retrieve whatever information is collected.

Police declined to reveal how much money was taken at the request of the bank.

The New York Police Department is also searching for two seemingly unconnected ATM-skimming duos that have taken thousands in cash in recent months.

Anyone with any information related to the Philly suspects is asked to call police at 215-686-3183. JENNY DEHUFF

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The Church of Scientology's Philadelphia headquarters on Race Street. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

# PMC Group Building is still Scientology's

Philly's Church of Scientology on Chestnut Street locale: Patience, church is still coming.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

It's become almost as easily ignorable on Chestnut Street as the transients and vagabonds that roam the downtown corridors, but the vacant PMC Group Building just west of 13th Street is still owned by the Philadelphia Church of Scientology.

On one side is the Bru craft beer bar — on the other, the Luxe home furnishings store — both relatively new to the popular and bubbly Midtown Village neighborhood. But the aging PMC Group Building remains untouched.

Now, here's an update.

In July of last year, the Philadelphia Church of Scientology, property owners of the PMC Group Building, came into compliance with a fire code regulation after they were cited with a violation issued by the Department of Licenses and Inspections in 2014. Currently, there are no open citations on the building. Yet, it remains vacant.

L&I officials said Tuesday that a lawsuit stemming from a "doors and windows" violation from 2013 — a crackdown issued to battle blight in neighborhoods — was discontinued. While the suit was pending, the property owner brought the building into compliance. (When there is no longer a violation, the property owner can't be prosecuted.)

Passersby no longer look in the windows and glass doors, which have been covered up by wide ribbons of brown paper for years now. But the 15-story tower still seems rife with potential for new life.

> *"When it is ultimately completed, the finished property will greatly enhance the neighborhood."*
> Conte

Karen Guss, a spokeswoman for L&I, said that no permits for construction have been issued on the PMC Group building.

Maryann Conte, a spokeswoman for Philadelphia's Church of Scientology, said that the church ministers to parishioners in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, which makes up about 10,000 Scientologists in the region, with several hundred in Philadelphia proper.

Philly's Scientology church home based is located at 1315 Race Street. As for the PMC Group Building, Conte said it is "still in the planning stages."

"Due to both its size and historic nature, great care has gone into design and planning to restore the building," Conte wrote in an email.

"When it is ultimately completed, the finished property will greatly enhance the neighborhood. This church is part of the Church of Scientology's ongoing effort to establish new Scientology churches in major cities and cultural centers all over the world."

Here's a list of some famous Scientologists — Kirstie Alley, Catherine Bell, Tom Cruise, Juliette Lewis, Jason Lee, John Travolta, Beck, Greta Van Susteren, Ruddy Rodriguez, Jenna Elfman, Elisabeth Moss, Anne Archer, Priscilla Presley, and Philly's own Fresh Prince — Will Smith — is also rumored to be a scientologist.

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# Bomb threats target over 30 schools in Northeast, Midwest

The threats, made in a robotic voice, appeared to come from computer-generated phone numbers that could be traced back to a location in Bakersfield, California.

Bomb threats were made against more than two dozen schools in New Jersey on Tuesday, and also against schools in Massachusetts, Delaware and Iowa, forcing evacuations and lockdowns that affected thousands of students.

At least 26 schools in New Jersey received the threats by phone starting at about 8:50 a.m. EST, said Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino, adding that the schools were all subsequently given the all clear.

"When we catch the people doing this, an example is going to be made," Saudino said.

Bergen County prosecutor Gurbir Grewal said his office felt confident it would help catch the culprits.

The threats, which may have been automated because they were so similar, were received by high schools in Teaneck, Garfield, Tenafly, Clifton, Fair Lawn, Leonia, Bergenfield, Englewood and Hackensack, police said.

In addition to the bomb threats, at least one school was threatened with being targeted for a mass shooting, police said.

In Massachusetts, Arlington High School just outside Boston was evacuated and students were dismissed for the day early Tuesday after officials reported a threat of a possible attack using bombs and guns, local police said.

Law enforcement officials investigate a bomb threat at Arlington High School in Eastern Massachusetts early Tuesday morning. NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Police said on Twitter they did not regard the attack as credible but the evacuation was carried out as a precaution. Arlington police said they later determined the threat to be "unfounded."

> *"There are digital fingerprints and we will follow up on each and every lead."*
>
> Grewal

Nine Boston-area schools were the targets of similar threats on Friday.

Delaware State Police said they were also investigating threats made by phone call in a robotic or computer generated-style voice to at least three schools.

The threats made at about 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday resulted in elementary schools in Millsboro, Middletown and a high school in Greenwood being evacuated, police said in a statement. Police did not release information about the nature of the threats.

Iowa City West High School, in Iowa City, also received a phoned-in bomb threat Tuesday, according to local media. The call was received about 8:40 a.m. and forced students and faculty to be transported to an off-site location. Neither the school district nor city police could immediately confirm the reports. REUTERS

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# Biden pledges faster approval of cancer-drug combination

**Biden, who lost his 46-year-old son, Beau, to brain cancer last year, set out his plans at a World Economic Forum meeting of international experts in Davos, a week after being appointed to lead the initiative by President Barack Obama.**

Vice President Joe Biden said Tuesday that the United States would speed up the approval of promising drug combinations in the government's newly announced drive to cure cancer "once and for all".

So-called combination therapy is increasingly seen as central to fighting tumors, as scientists unlock the different genetic factors driving cancer cell growth, but bringing such cocktails to market can be a slow and costly process.

Biden said he had hosted a meeting at his home with three unnamed large drug companies and the head of the Food and Drug Administration at which both sides had pledged to do more to get novel cancer drug cocktails to patients.

"The head of the FDA made a commitment that everybody would move much more rapidly in approving combinations," Biden said.

At the same, the pharmaceutical industry executives had all said they were "open to different ways of doing business" in order to ensure that promising drugs from different companies were tested together as early as possible, he added.

Vice President Joe Biden GETTY IMAGES

Cancer experts are particularly excited by the promise of immunotherapy medicines that help the body's immune system fight tumors and which have been shown to work well when used alongside other drugs.

Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, described their potential as "breath-taking."

But such immunotherapy drugs are expensive — typically costing well over $100,000 a year per patient — and companies have traditionally been defensive about sharing early stage medical experiments.

> *"I'm not naive enough to think or suggest we are going to have a cure for every cancer in the world in the near term."*
>
> Biden

Obama's call to "make America the country that cures cancer once and for all" in the final State of the Union address of his presidency has led to criticism from some scientists of an oversimplified approach.

The latest government-led initiative has echoes of President Richard Nixon's unsuccessful "war on cancer" in the 1970s, since scientists have discovered that cancer is hundreds of different diseases rather than one single disorder, making the notion of a single cure outdated.

Biden acknowledged the complexity in Davos.

REUTERS

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# Children on Syrian refugee route could freeze to death

A Syrian child, who fled with her family from attacks of Islamic State, is seen in front of a hovel living in harsh conditions in the cold winter in the suburbs of Turkey's capital, Ankara. GETTY IMAGES

Thousands of refugee children traveling along the migration route through Turkey and southeastern Europe are at risk from a sustained spell of freezing weather in the next two weeks, the United Nations and aid agencies said on Tuesday.

The U.N. weather agency said it forecast below-normal temperatures and heavy snowfall in the next two weeks in the eastern Balkan peninsula, Turkey, the eastern Mediterranean and Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan.

"Many children on the move do not have adequate clothing or access to the right nutrition," said Christophe Boulierac, spokesman for the U.N. children's agency UNICEF.

Asked if children could freeze to death, he told a news briefing: "The risk is clearly very, very high."

Children were coming ashore on the Greek island of Lesbos wearing only T-shirts and soaking wet after traveling on unseaworthy rubber dinghies, the charity Save the Children said in a statement.

"Aid workers at the border reception center in Presevo say there is six inches of snow on the ground and children are arriving with blue lips, distressed and shaking from the cold," it said.

It said temperatures were forecast to drop to -20 degrees Celsius (-4°F) in Presevo in Serbia and -13 degrees (9°F) on the Greek border with Macedonia.

Last year children accounted for a quarter of the one million migrants and refugees arriving across the Mediterranean in Europe, Boulierac said. The UN refugee agency UNHCR said a daily average of 1,708 people had arrived in Greece so far in January, just under half the December daily average of 3,508.

REUTERS

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# Family of ex-FBI agent missing in Iran demands answers from the US

Levinson, who disappeared while visiting Iran's Kish Island in 2007, was not among the five American prisoners released by the Iranian government.

Robert Levinson LEVINSON FAMILY HANDOUT

The family of former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who went missing in Iran eight years ago, said on Tuesday it was "desperate for answers" on his whereabouts and expressed frustration at the information it had received from the Obama administration.

His family said in a statement over the weekend that they were "devastated," adding: "We are happy for the other families. But once again, Bob Levinson has been left behind."

In a speech on Sunday celebrating the release of the Americans, Obama said the U.S. government would "not rest" until Levinson was found. Secretary of State John Kerry said in a Twitter post that Iran had agreed to deeper coordination to locate Levinson.

Levinson's son, Dan, told CNN on Tuesday the family "can only hope that they [U.S. officials] are really doing everything they can."

He said that for years "President Obama has promised that, Secretary Kerry has promised that, but it hasn't … given us results."

U.S. officials believe that Levinson, who suffered from diabetes, died in captivity after meeting with an American-born Islamic militant on Kish Island. Iranian officials have repeatedly denied knowledge of his disappearance or whereabouts. REUTERS

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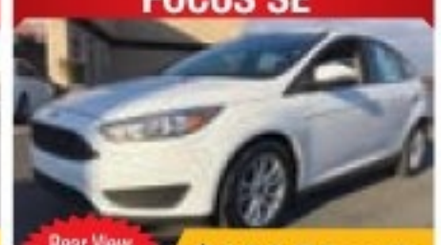
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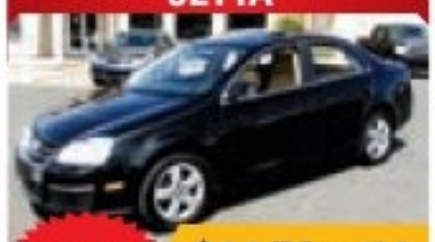
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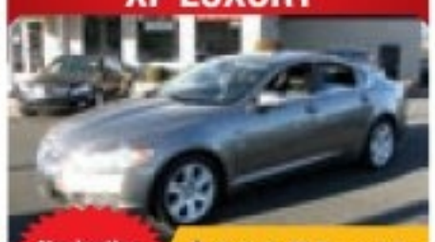
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# British spy agency hailed as top gay-friendly employer

Just over 25 years since Britain's powerful domestic spy agency dropped a ban on hiring gays and lesbians, MI5 was hailed Tuesday as the country's most gay-friendly employer.

MI5 was ranked first of more than 400 organizations by rights group Stonewall in a 2016 Workplace Equality Index for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees. Just six years ago, MI5 was ranked at 134th in the index.

"People can only give the best they can give when they feel supported, valued and treated with respect by their colleagues," Andrew Parker, the director general of MI5, told the charity.

MI5, established in 1909 to counter German espionage ahead of World War I, fought the Soviet-era KGB during the Cold War and now spends about two thirds of its money on international counter terrorism, predominantly linked to Syria.

Spies in MI5 and other services such as MI6 and GCHQ have for years been trying to ditch the perception that they are male-dominated bastions of reaction.

The UK's Security Services MI5 and MI6 Headquarters building, Vauxhall, London. GETTY IMAGES

The accolade from Stonewall, complete with a rare public comment from one of Britain's most powerful spy chiefs, will help MI5 pitch itself as a modern spy service.

Of the 4,000 people employed by MI5, 41 percent are women and just over half are younger than 40, according to the spy service. REUTERS

*"Diversity is vital for MI5, not just because it's right that we represent the communities we serve, but because we rely on the skills of the most talented people whoever they are, and wherever they may be."*
Parker

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# The cheapest places to move in 2016

Zillow.com's chief economist, Svenja Gudell, reveals the best cities to check out if you're on a budget.

Seattle is becoming one of the buzziest cities for millennials on a budget. ISTOCK

No housing expert has a crystal ball, but Svenja Gudell, recently appointed chief economist for the housing site Zillow.com, has looked at enough data to make a pretty good guess. She examines vast amounts of housing-market statistics — about everything from where people are going to want, to live to which areas will be hot, to what the future could hold for renters — on a daily basis. We ask Gudell to share her insights on what she thinks the 2016 housing market will be like.

**What markets do you think will be places to watch in 2016?**

The combination of unemployment, population growth and the home value growth will make markets like Boise, Idaho; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Omaha, Nebraska, stand out. Denver, Seattle, Dallas and Fort Worth, as well as Portland, where inventory has been declining in the last year and demand continues to rise, will also be hot locations in 2016.

**Are there some areas we should just give up on instead of waiting for them to recover from the recession?**

No. Cities are pretty good at reinventing themselves. There's a city out there for everyone.

**Location always matters in real estate, but are there any adjustments to that rule in 2016?**

We have fairly low inventory in the cities. So next year, we'll see first-time home buyers looking at suburbs — not just any suburbs, but those that are more dense, more walkable. We're also going to see an uptick in the number of condos being sold — especially for first-time home buyers. For a lot of folks, life happens not just inside their four walls but outside of them. Location, cost itself and nearby amenities will be most important.

**Is 2016 going to be the year millennials begin buying houses, now that they are older and the market is more recovered?**

Millennials are going to be bigger and bigger buyers in the market going forward. I don't think [in 2016] we're going to see a flood of millennials in one month or another. They'll just trickle in. They're taking their time getting to the market and buying a home. They're getting married later on in life. They're having children later on in life. So they're making home buying decisions later on in life. One issue is that inventory is very low, especially on the bottom end of the price distribution. There are very few of those available, especially in these markets that have the most jobs. That's particularly the case on the coasts. It's a challenge for them. It's a tough market. There is a lot competition.

**What kind of new house trends are on the horizon for 2016? Are there any upgrades that are must-haves?**

It's tough with how few new homes are available, but there is a trend among builders to build larger homes on smaller lots. Land is fairly expensive so they are trying to maximize their profits given the high land costs.

**Should we be optimistic, pessimistic or patient about housing in 2016?**

I'm an optimist. I like to see the silver lining, but there's going to be a lot of hurdles.

REUTERS

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# Madonna fears for her life because of Sean Penn's El Chapo stunt

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

While Sean Penn has been calmly patting himself on the back for both helping to bring Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman to justice and single-handedly saving journalism, his ex-wife — and current squeeze — Madonna has not been doing so well. Sources tell Radar Online that Madonna, who is apparently dating Penn again, fears for her life now that a connection has been drawn between the actor's October interview with the drug lord and his later capture. Because obviously. "While tough-talking Sean told her she's safe, Madonna nonetheless is living in fear," a source says. "She is furious with Sean for putting her in danger." See, I knew dating Sean Penn was a bad idea.

## the word

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# Here's Mel Gibson stumbling around a Whole Foods

While he seemed to be fine and dandy at the Golden Globes earlier this month — and up for making fun of himself — Mel Gibson has been showing some troubling signs of his past behavior making a comeback.

Take, for instance, this recent trip to the grocery store. I kind of don't even want to get too into the analysis of it and just give you the play-by-play from the other shoppers: "Mel went into the Whole Foods in Thousand Oaks and was stumbling around. He came in with a big white fork in his mouth and he seemed unsteady. He tripped a couple of times and he was telling people he wasn't really Mel Gibson," a source tells Radar Online. "He was extremely rude to people. He wasn't behaving politely at all and seemed unsteady. Mel went to the checkout line and tried to pay with his credit card but had to insert in three different ways for it to work. He looked like he could fall down at any moment." Fun times, Mr. Gibson. Fun times.

## DAILY VIDEO

YOUTUBE

### Madonna's tribute to David Bowie

It didn't take long for Madonna to work her feelings about the passing of David Bowie into her tour, as this clip from her stop in Houston shows. "I want to pay tribute to a man who inspired my career. If you haven't heard about David Bowie, then look him up, motherf—ers. He was one of the geniuses in the music industry, one of the greatest singer-songwriters of the 20th century and he changed my life when I went to see him in concert in Detroit. He showed me that it was OK to be different." She then launched into a rousing rendition of "Rebel Rebel" — which makes sense, since this is her Rebel Heart tour and all.

# Maisie Williams won't tell you Jon Snow's fate

Jon Snow's apparent death at the end of last season of "Game of Thrones" was a huge shock, and his fate is one of the big mysteries of the new season, due in April. So why do people keep asking cast members whether he's alive or dead? Do they actually expect an answer? Have they never seen a TV show before? The folks at The Upcoming apparently haven't, since they tried to get something out of Maisie Williams about it at the U.K. Critics Circle Awards. "I feel so mean because I speak to people and they're all like, 'Jon Snow, is he back?'" she says. "It's a great twist, but I can't say he's going to be alive." I'm sorry people keep asking.

# Academy president laments lack of Oscars diversity

**@rickygervais**
If I were @chrisrock, I wouldn't be considering boycotting The Oscars. I'd be thinking "this s— is live. I can do some serious damage."

**@chelseahandler**
I'm trying my best to take this election year seriously.

**@JuddApatow**
I don't think I can handle the loss of any more of my rock n roll heroes. I am still not over the loss of Keith Moon and Terry Kath.

**@DitaVonTeese**
Gee, how does one find trustworthy chimney experts? New house, two inspections, two conflicting different (very expensive!) diagnoses!

Hey, Spike Lee and Jada Pinkett Smith, guess what? Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Cheryl Boone Isaacs has heard your complaints about this year's Oscar nominations and their stunning lack of diversity, and she's vowing to do something about it. Well, not about the nominees this year, per se, since that ship has sailed. But moving forward? Totally. "I am both heartbroken and frustrated about the lack of inclusion. This is a difficult but important conversation, and it's time for big changes," Isaacs says in a statement. "As many of you know, we have implemented changes to diversify our membership in the last four years. But the change is not coming as fast as we would like. We need to do more, and better and more quickly." So, is that enough to call off the boycott?

# What Alan Rickman knew about Snape

One of Alan Rickman's most famous roles was Professor Severus Snape in the "Harry Potter" movies. Rickman died last week at age 69. WARNER BROS. PICTURES

It's been a rough month for celebrity losses. For "Harry Potter" fans (and movie fans in general), the passing of Alan Rickman from cancer at the age of 69 was particularly difficult. His career as an actor was incredible, from stage to screen, from "Die Hard" to the underrated ghostly drama-romance "Truly Madly Deeply," and I've loved everything he's done.

But as a geek and a lover of all things Harry, I'll always think of him first as Professor Snape.

I think there is something that is undeniably compelling about characters that are hated or feared revealing something that makes them sympathetic. I think that's why we love them so much. We're waiting for the villain to show us their soft underbelly.

Snape had that. He loved Harry's mother Lily. It affected everything he did. It was why he protected Harry. It's why he did what he did for Dumbledore. When Snape produces his Patronus charm, and it's the same as Lily's, Dumbledore says, "After all this time?" Snape replies, "Always."

Rickman has revealed in the past that "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling, to persuade him to take the job, gave him information about the role that no one else had. This week, she revealed what exactly she told him. She tweeted, "I told Alan what lies behind the word 'always.'" That single word contains all the passion and goodness that Snape had to conceal until the last second, at which point one of the series' great villains turned into a truly tragic figure.

There was a quote attributed to Rickman where he says he'll be reading "Harry Potter" when he's 80 in his rocking chair, and that when his family asks, "After all this time?" he'll reply, "Always." Though there is no evidence that he actually said that, I think most of us will be doing that ourselves.

Knowing that Rickman knew Snape was in love with Lily, and that it informed every bit of his performance, is the perfect reason to go back and watch the "Harry Potter" films again.

RIP.

**JENNA BUSCH**

*Geek Girl in Hollywood*

Jenna Busch takes on the way pop culture snubs its female fans. For more columns, visit Metro.us/jenna-busch as well as her site, Legion of Leia (Legionofleia.com)

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Philadelphia - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

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As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

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# Life after Ron Weasley

Rupert Grint is in a crazy film, "Moonwalkers," that's nothing like "Harry Potter."

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

Rupert Grint could spend the rest of his life doing nothing. After all, the actor, now 27, devoted 13 years to playing Ron Weasley, the most flabbergasted of the "Harry Potter" films' central trio. Instead, like his co-stars Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson, he's kept up the acting, taking roles that are very un-Hogwarts. He's done dramas ("Cherrybomb") and a war film ("Into the White"), played punk reprobate Cheetah Chrome in "CBGB" and performed Off-Broadway in Terrence McNally's "It's Only a Play."

His new film "Moonwalkers" is also very much outside the Potter wheelhouse. Grint plays Jonny, a London rock manager in 1969 who stumbles into a plan to create a fake film of the Apollo 11 moon landing, in case the real mission is a bust. This ruse winds up involving him with orgy-loving hippies, vengeful East End gangsters and a PTSD-ridden CIA heavy played by Hellboy himself, Ron Perlman.

"It's something that doesn't take itself too seriously, which is a rare thing," he says of the sometimes hyperviolent comedy. "I wasn't sure how it would turn out. It was a ridiculous hour-and-a-half. It does kind of slap you around in the face."

Before the "Moonwalkers" script made it to him, Grint had already been a nut for conspiracy theories, or at least reading about them. "One of my favorites is that the moon is hollow," he tells us. "NASA sent this missile up there to hit the face of the moon. The signals came back described it as ringing like a bell — like it was a hollow structure. I don't know if it's real. But it made me think."

What caused him to become an avid reader of wacky theories? "I think it was probably Princess Diana," he says, alluding to the claims made by some that her death was not an accident. A lot of these catch his fancy, some loonier than others. "There's one about a reptilian race that controls all the world's power. Every decision is made by this reptilian race. The queen is one of them. The prime minister, all the presidents — they're all reptiles.

"The people who say this are so unwavering, and you think, just a little bit, maybe they've got a point. It's just quite fun reading."

Grint points out that making "Moonwalkers" made him wonder if theories that it was staged might have a bit of a point, maybe. "The moon landing was surprisingly easy to remake," he recalls. "It's really easy to make the moon. It looks like a set. It kind of makes you think it would have been quite easy to do it, to fake it."

Rupert Grint, with Robert Sheehan, plays a lowly rock manager who finds himself helping to fake the Apollo 11 moon landing in "Moonwalkers." ALCHEMY

## What he wants next

"Moonwalkers" is out-there, even when you're not comparing it to the "Potter" films. But Grint doesn't take roles just to shock his massive fanbase, who continues, nearly five years after the final installment, to swirl around him. (He's famous for being gracious to those who come up to him on the street.)

"There just haven't been that many wizard roles out there," he jokes. "It's nice to do something different and a bit edgy. I find that a bit exciting. I like the idea of exciting people."

He says he'd like to do something really different from Ron Weasley, though. "Something dark would be fun. Someone a bit evil. I'd enjoy that, I think," Grint says. "I think being a ginger takes away a bit of my edge."

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# Learning the rules of the game

Baseball becomes metaphor in a Philaldephia premiere at FringeArts.

SHAUN BRADY
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While its reputation as America's pastime is still intact, baseball has burrowed its way deeply into the cultures of Japan and South Korea. So much so, says playwright and director Toshiki Okada, that in his native Japan, "we sometimes don't think about the United States when we think about baseball. I think that kind of proves how much America has penetrated into our two countries' culture and society."

Okada, founder of the Japanese theater company Chelfitsch, likens the relationship between America, Japan and South Korea to "a father and two sons." He explores that dynamic in his new play, "God Bless Baseball," which arrives at FringeArts this weekend for its Philadelphia premiere. The director's idiosyncratic work, which combines exaggerated physical gestures and hyper-colloquial language, is becoming a regular highlight of FringeArts' programming; the organization has previously presented his triptych "Hot Pepper, Air Conditioner, and the Farewell Speech" as well as "Zero Cost House," his collaboration with Pig Iron Theatre Company.

"God Bless Baseball" is performed by two Japanese actors playing Korean roles and two Korean actors playing Japanese roles, both in their native tongues (and all with English supertitles for the stateside tour). The show examines the contentious and complicated issues faced by the two countries, played out on a baseball diamond. "I was thinking about how to make an international collaboration between Japan and South Korea," Okada explains, "and I thought the idea of baseball might be good to describe our two countries' relationship."

The miscommunications and tensions between the two Asian cultures are played out through a baseball lesson given to two women by a pair of men, one of whom can't stand the game, the other a worshipful fan laboring under the delusion that he's actually Major Leaguer Ichiro Suzuki.

FringeArts is bringing "God Bless Baseball" to Philly this weekend. MOON SO YOUNG

**"God Bless Baseball"**

Jan. 21-23, 8 p.m.
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## Mistakes and all

Challenges came not only from the actors' unfamiliarity with Okada's working methods — it was the first time working with the singular director for all four actors — but from the fact that most of them had almost no knowledge of the rules of the sport.

"Whenever I work as a theater director, I have a kind of obsession with putting interesting movement on the stage," Okada says. "Three of the four don't know almost anything about baseball, so I liked seeing how they tried to imitate how to play baseball — of course, in the wrong way. I know baseball, but I didn't tell them anything, I didn't make their wrong way of playing baseball correct. As you will be able to see."

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# Chef Jacques La Merde says he's obviously an East Coaster

The VERY ANONYMOUS Instagram-famous chef will reveal his identity.

RACHEL RACZKA
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rachel.raczka@metro.us

The ever-mysterious Chef Jacques La Merde — an anonymous chef who meticulously plates fine dining interpretations made from junk food on Instagram, @chefjacqueslamerde — is ready to reveal himself, and he's bringing the bro-est of bros with him.

The chef, whose name essentially translates to "jack s—," will be stepping into the kitchen with an all-star cast of chefs at Puritan and Co. in Boston for his "Most Soigne Dinner Ever" with owner Chef Will Gilson on Jan. 28. The dinner coincides with the broadcast of the eighth episode of this season of Bravo's "Top Chef," on which the chef's secert identity will be publicly revealed following a quickfire challenge.

Deemed a "smart shtick" by Vogue.com and "brilliant" by Eater, La Merde's aggressively excited captions and expert "New Nordic" plating techniques has earned him some 91,000 Instagram followers, most of whom we're confident are dying to know his true identity.

But despite our aggressive, all-caps questioning in Comic Sans, he still remains a mystery to us.

**Why are you coming out? Why now? Why Boston?**
ISNT IT OBVIOUS IM AN EAST COASTER? COME ON BROS, IM CLEARLY WOUND WAY TOO TIGHT TO BE FROM ANYWHERE ELSE!!!! LOVE BOSTON, I THINK ITS A GREAT CITY, W/ A DYNAMIC FOOD SCENE AND AN INCREDIBLE ROSTER OF CHEF-TALENT. ALSO THE FISHES ARE DELICIOUS!!!!! WHEN WE FIRST STARTED TALKIN ABOUT DOIN A DINNER TO COINCIDE W/ A REVEAL ON TOP CHEF, THERE RLLY WASN'T ANY OTHER PLACE I WANTED TO DO IT.

**What's your relationship with the chefs that are participating in this event?**
THE THING ABOUT BEIN A CHEF, IS THAT A CERTAIN FRATERNITY DEVELOPS, THAT GOES BEYOND ACTUALLY "HAVING MET SOMEONE." I'M COOKING W/ AN AMAZIN LINEUP, AND WHILE SOME OF THESE GUYS I'VE KNOWN FOR YEARS, OTHERS I ONLY KNO THROUGH OUR SPIRITUAL-CHEF CONNECTION.

**Will you mingle with guests?**
ONCE THE FOOD LEAVES THE PASS, ALL THE CHEFS WILL BE COMIN OUT TO MEET GUESTS, ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AND GIVE OUT HIGH FIVES!!! I CAN'T SAY FOR CERTAIN YET, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE WE'RE BRINGING IN A SMOKE MACHINE, AND WE'LL BE BASICALLY BLASTING JOURNEY AND HAVING AN EPIC TIME!!!

**What should the world know about your reveal? Will you continue the Instagram account?**
U KNO WUT I AM MOST PROUD OF? THAT I TOUCHED SO MANY PPL W/ MY FOOD THIS YEAR. I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW, I'M NOT DONE TOUCHIN YOU YET!!!! THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!!!!

Chef Jacques La Merde merges junk food and fine dining techniques for his anonymous Instagram account. @CHEFJACQUESLAMERDE/ INSTAGRAM

**Are you always shouting or are we just reading it that way?**
I HAVE A DEEP VOICE, AND IM REALLY EXCITED!!!!! DONT TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY!!!

*Chef Jacques La Merde's "Top Chef" episode ("Where's the Beef?") airs on Bravo, Jan. 28 at 9 p.m.*

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# An expert guide to hacking the bar experience

Even if you've tried it before, we've got the tips that really work.

EVA KIS
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New year, new you, new love. Sounds great, but sometimes the only thing harder than putting yourself out there is deciding where to go. Allow us to present a radical idea: the bar.

"The after-work bar scene is great because everybody wants to unwind. They want to talk to someone, it's just so easy," says Susan Baxter, whose HireAWingWoman.com service pairs men and women with a "professional plus-one" to meet new people. "People can be somewhat vulnerable or more open to conversation."

A bar gets you in the meeting-people mindset, more so than going to an event and hoping that something happens.

Ironically, they also offer the opportunity for instant connection in a way online dating doesn't. "Until you meet someone in person, you don't know what kind of chemistry you have," Baxter points out.

Convinced? Give bars another try with these expert tips.

## Do your research

"Make friends with the bartender," Baxter advises. "Go maybe once or a couple times a week — the bartender gets to see who the characters are, they may know who's single, who the alcoholics are. Who knows? They could even set you up."

## Go where the fun is

Look for bars with games like darts or pool tables for a low-stress way to chat up someone rather than staring into each other's eyes and drinking your cocktails too fast. At more casual bars, "people tend to be a little bit more open and talkative to other people than the people they came with," Baxter says. She also likes breweries and Mexican restaurants, which by the nature of their fun drinks and upbeat music tend to attract happy people.

Bars can be a great place to meet someone — with the right approach. ISTOCK

## Wear something versatile

"You should wear what flatters you," Baxter says. "There are so many rules out there that say, 'Wear red, it attracts men.' I look like crap in red!" She describes the ideal look as "chameleon" — like you can have fun in different scenarios. If you go with a dressy top, skew casual on the bottom. Ladies, go easy on the makeup and jewelry, and leave your highest heels at home.

## Stand down, squad

You're way more approachable if you're either by yourself or with one other person, says Baxter. More people mean more obstacles, and someone may not approach to avoid interrupting your event.

## Need some help?

If you're looking for romance, going out with your bestie might not be how you'll find it. Baxter's wingwomen work with men and women to make that first connection a little bit smoother by honing clients' technique, making introductions or just being a supportive plus-one. "It's intimidating to go up to that hot person at the bar," Baxter says. "Basically, a wingwoman will provide the confidence."

## Pick the right bar

If going to a bar alone sounds intimidating, find one where anyone would be happy to talk to you. "Try hotel bars," says Baxter. "It's such a good place to practice breaking the ice." The traveler gets your insider info, you get to talk about something other than your job or commute. Win-win!

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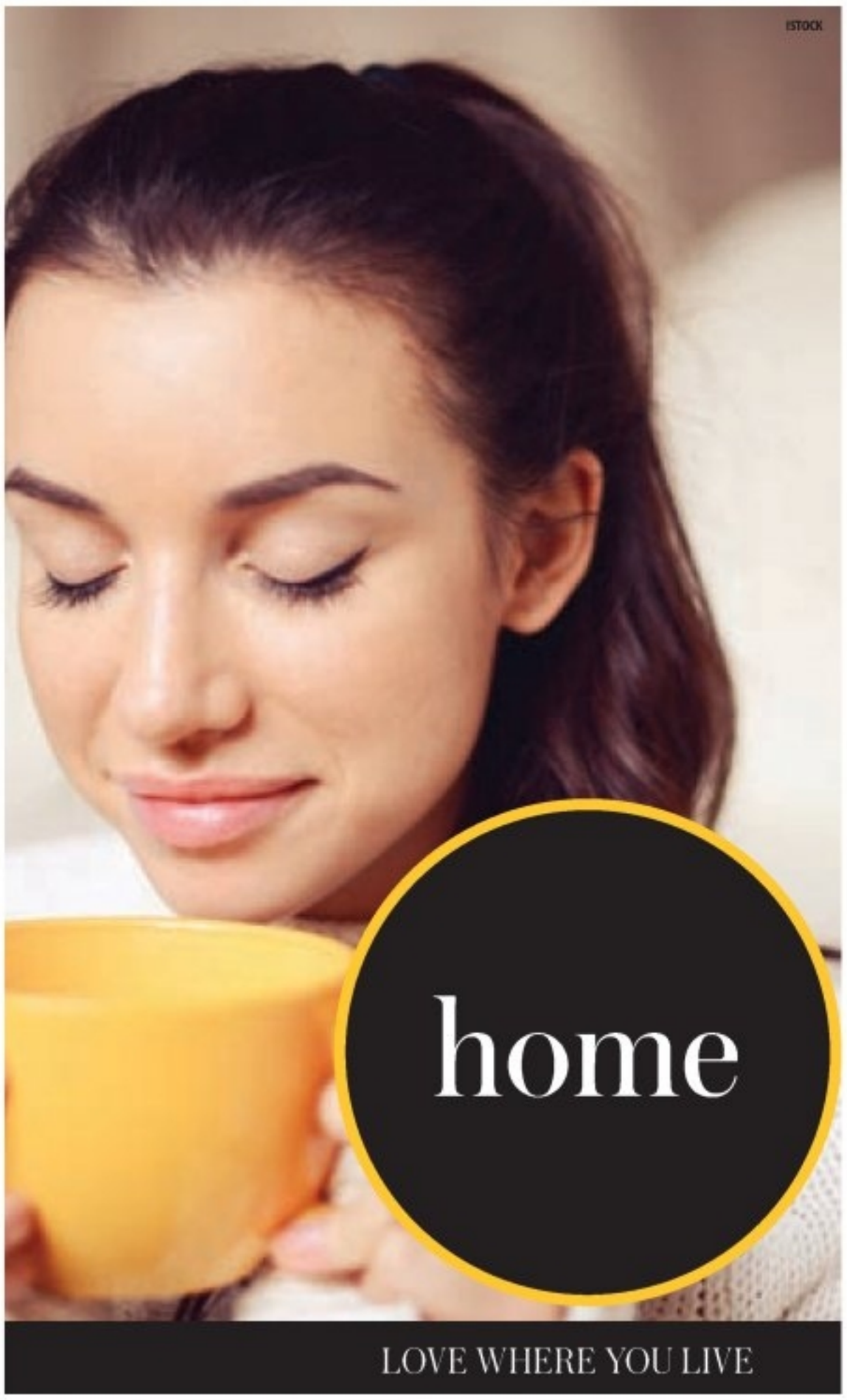


# 10 Ways to warm up your home

Welcome to winter, friends. Although the season "officially" kicked off a month ago, this is when it starts to get real: You realize the holidays are over and there's a good three months until you'll be spending much time outside. Our cabin fever strategy? Brighten up your igloo and invite the sunshine in with these cheery accents. **MONICA WEYMOUTH**

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# Pederson makes pitch to keep Bradford

In his introductory press conference Tuesday, the new Eagles head coach also said he will run a "West Coastish" offense.

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The ball seems now to be in Sam Bradford's court.

In his introductory press conference Tuesday, new Eagles head coach Doug Pederson, in no uncertain terms, told reporters, Eagles fans and Bradford himself that the former Heisman Trophy winner and Rookie of the Year is wanted in midnight green.

"Looking at the quarterback position here, I think Sam is a quality quarterback," Pederson said, adorning a green tie and Eagles pin. "He's a top-notch quarterback. Look at the numbers he was able to put up last half of the season. He fits perfectly into the system I am going to bring."

What system is that? Well, some combination of the West Coast and spread offense, Pederson explained.

"The core values and principles are West Coast-ish, but we've developed a hybrid-type system," the Chiefs' former offensive coordinator said. "We use our players' strengths."

This is in the face of the most recent regime, which saw Chip Kelly force his players to work around his system, not the other way around.

In Kansas City, Pederson called plays during the second half of games and says he will do the play-calling in Philadelphia. And it sounds like his first order of business will be shoring up the recipient of his play calls.

"I think Sam has all the tools," the coach said, "there's no denying that. He has good size, a good arm and a good mind for the game. It's about plugging him in and cutting him loose, and utilizing his strengths in this system."

> *"I think Sam has all the tools, there's no denying that."*
>
> Doug Pederson, on Eagles QB Sam Bradford

Bradford, who Pederson is yet to talk to, was stellar during his last six starts with the Eagles. The quarterback completed 175 of 256 passes for 1,959 yards and 10 touchdowns for a 99.1 rating

He also set team records this season in both completions (346) and completion percentage (65.0), while finishing with the fourth-highest single-season passing yardage total (3,725).

"I think he's a tremendous player, I liked him coming out of college," Pederson said of Bradford, who was acquired for Nick Foles and a second-round pick last offseason from St. Louis. "He is someone I do want to reach out to and talk.

Doug Pederson was officially introduced as Eagles head coach Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

"I think Sam brings a whole skill set that benefits him. [My system] is a pass-friendly system but it's not as much of a vertical system as people think."

No offensive coordinator has been announced yet and Pederson says he is still evaluating candidates. Frank Reich was reported to be a favorite, but Pederson would not confirm that. He also said Pat Shurmur is still a candidate for the job.

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# Big decisions lie ahead for the Eagles

The Eagles decisions on these key members of the 2015 squad will go a long way in creating the team's identity in 2016.

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The Eagles only have 11 free agents this offseason, a small crop. But after Chip Kelly's ouster fans are left wondering if they'll have an off-season as tumultuous as last year's.

**Sam Bradford, QB**
Following the coach search, the biggest offseason issue in Philadelphia this spring will be quarterback. Particularly, it's Bradford, who is an unrestricted free agent. While the Eagles saw a mixed bag from Bradford this season, his play appeared to steadily improve and there aren't a lot of alternatives at quarterback staring the team in the face.

With that in mind, whether or not Bradford returns may come down to his mindset, and whether he wants to hang around to learn a new system behind a reeling offensive line and with a so-far toothless collection of weapons at receiver. Bradford spoke highly of Pat Shurmur as a candidate for the Eagles' coaching vacancy, and whether Shurmur being passed over in favor of Doug Pederson will have any impact on Bradford's decision remains to be seen.

The Eagles have the option of franchising Bradford and keeping him in town no matter his opinion, and that may well be their best option.

**Cedric Thornton, DE or Vinny Curry, DE**
This is a two-fer, but it comes down to scheme. Several fans are predicting (hoping?) for a return to the 4-3 defensive scheme that saw the Eagles defense soar under Jim Johnson a decade ago. Doug Pederson's Tuesday announcement of Jim Schwartz as his defensive coordinator supports a 4-3 comeback.

The Eagles may opt to slap the franchise tag on Sam Bradford. GETTY IMAGES

**Walter Thurmond, S**
In 2015 Thurmond did two things he never had before in an NFL season: moved to safety, and played 16 games. Originally expected by many to be the replacement when Brandon Boykin was ultimately pushed out of town, Kelly moved Thurmond to safety, and he had three interceptions, two sacks, and 71 tackles there while starting every game.

Kelly and Billy Davis had very specific desires in their safeties, namely, converted cornerbacks, that may not be shared by the incoming coaching staff. Thurmond was one of the most crucial parts of the 2015 secondary's first half turnaround however, and should be talented enough and versatile enough to see playing time at corner or safety should the Eagles retain him. Playing Thurmond at his accustomed nickel spot would also allow Malcolm Jenkins to return to safety when the Eagles play nickel.

**Seyi Ajirotutu, WR**
Ajirotutu was heralded as a special teams, well, specialist, and not much of a threat at wide receiver when he arrived in Philadelphia. He lived up to both billings with one catch for four yards and eight tackles in 13 games for an Eagles coverage unit that ranked third against punt returns and seventh against kick returns in 2015.

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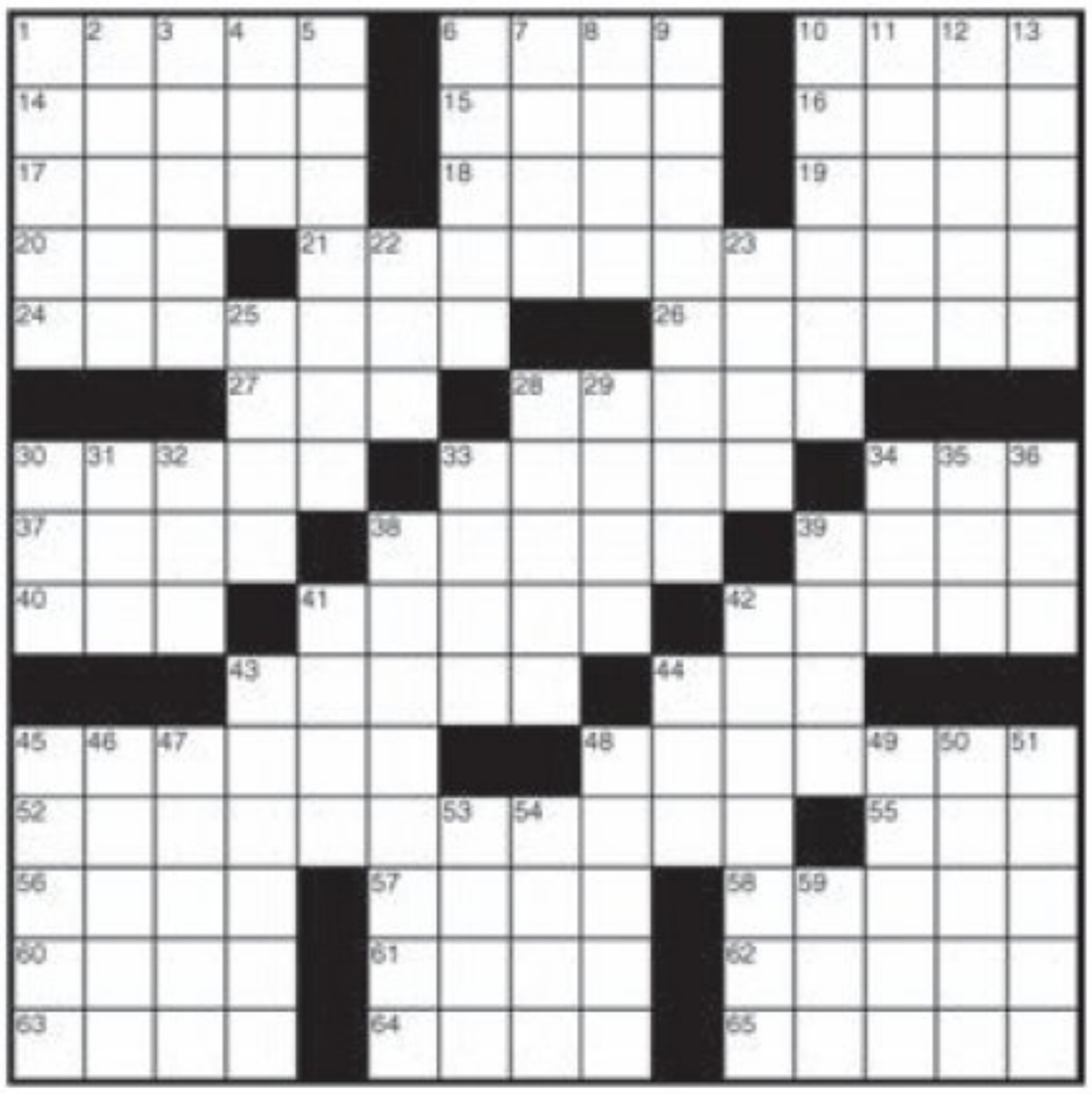

# metro.us/games

**Across**

1 Limestone terrain
6 Pass the —
10 Email nuisance
14 Steal the scene
15 Et — (and others)
16 Haleakala's site
17 Farm machine
18 Come down hard
19 Nudge forward
20 It borders Fla.
21 Arctic phenomenon (2 wds.)
24 Cyborg science
26 Quarts, plus
27 Summer in Paris
28 Abrasive mineral
30 Desperado's fear
33 Cote murmur
34 Rock's — Leppard
37 Meadow browsers
38 Paddle-wheeler site
39 Swedish auto
40 Nth deg.
41 Fixed the pilot
42 — pants
43 Feline nine
44 Call in sick
45 El — (low-cost)
48 Spoken
52 Wild orchid (hyph.)
55 Khan of note
56 Staff member
57 Field mouse
58 Aquatic mammal
60 Mix it up
61 Thames school
62 Sleep disturber
63 Rushes off
64 Helen Reddy's "Delta —"
65 Tough situations

**Down**

1 Shish —
2 Cremona violin-maker
3 "Nancy" rich kid
4 Sault — Marie
5 Home wrecker?
6 Minstrels
7 — Bator
8 103 to Pliny
9 Cordelia's father (2 wds.)
10 Grimy
11 Do Latin homework
12 Foretell
13 Demeanors
22 Treat a sprain
23 Al the trumpet player
25 Monster-hunter's loch
28 Tupelo phenom
29 Bump into
30 A little in Lyon
31 Pea-green boat passenger
32 Arm the alarm
33 Digestive juice
34 Skip stones
35 Maize unit
36 "Most Wanted" org.
38 Went around
39 Garage event
41 Dangerous currents
42 Fruitcake fruits
43 Hens
44 Absorbed, as costs
45 Play the cymbals
46 Duvalier's domain
47 A funny Murphy
48 Philadelphia sch.
49 Math term
50 Spit out
51 Ventures
53 Minute amount
54 Break ground
59 Go one better

# metro.us/sudoku

**easy**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 9 | | | 7 | | 2 | |
| | 3 | 5 | 9 | | | 8 | | 6 |
| | | | 2 | 8 | | 3 | | |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | | | | | 9 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | | | | | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| | | 4 | | 7 | 1 | | | |
| 6 | | 8 | | | 5 | 7 | 4 | |
| | 9 | | 8 | | | 6 | | |

**hard**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | 5 | 2 | | | | 8 |
| | | | 4 | | | | 1 | |
| 6 | | 8 | | | | 4 | | |
| | | 3 | 2 | | 8 | | 6 | |
| | 1 | | 6 | | 4 | | 7 | |
| | 6 | | 9 | | 7 | 5 | | |
| | | 7 | | | | 2 | | 6 |
| | 4 | | | | 2 | | | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | 3 | | | 1 |

# metro.us/horoscopes

**Aries** Get into the game by making improvements that will update your look and add to your qualifications. Pushing your way to the top will take both talent and presentation skills.

**Taurus** You'll discover a rich lode of information if you talk to someone who has experienced something you want to pursue firsthand. If you listen and learn, advancement will be yours.

**Gemini** Show your stuff, but don't make promises you cannot keep. Put your best foot forward and make a point to praise others who work as hard as you do.

**Cancer** Keep your secrets to yourself. Focus on what you can do to help others. A couple of thoughtful changes at home will improve a personal relationship.

**Leo** Your playful mood and actions will attract some people and repel others. Pick and choose who is best suited for collaboration before you embark on a new project.

**Virgo** Mix business with pleasure in order to get a much better sense of how you can find success. You can make a financial or residential move that improves your standard of living.

**Libra** Keep your thoughts to yourself if you want to avoid a debate with someone who will never see things your way. Nurture a relationship with a loved one. Take time for pampering.

**Scorpio** The more you do for others, the more you will get in return. You can make a difference if you bring about change to the way you live or act.

**Sagittarius** Focus on getting things done, instead of finding new things to do. You'll face emotional trouble if you evade issues or neglect to fulfill a promise. Offer love, not complaints.

**Capricorn** Believe in yourself and your ability to make things happen. What anyone else does doesn't matter, as long as you are happy with the results you get.

**Aquarius** Show your strengths and stand up and be counted, but know when to back down and keep the peace. It's your ability to weigh your options that will lead to your success.

**Pisces** Don't allow indecisiveness to be your downfall. Look at the possibilities, but be realistic regarding how much you can actually accomplish. EUGENIA LAST

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# Hexagon Word

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**Clues:**

1. Untenanted
2. Hypnotic state
3. Eighth month
4. Spray
5. Opens
6. Recent

Use the clues to fill in the spaces in the numbered hexagons. Each answer runs clockwise but can start anywhere in the shape. Where hexagons touch, they have the same letter. We've given you the first answer. The letters in the middle hexagon reveal a mystery keyword.

# Mix 'n' Match

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| TOO | LHA | TEE |
| EXC | ANC | TED |
| FIN | MIT | ION |
| FOO | THA | ING |
| OBJ | ICI | IVE |
| POC | ECT | IES |
| ROY | KET | IER |
| SOL | ESS | RDY |
| COM | ALT | CHE |

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**Clues:**

1. Banker
2. Decision-making group
3. Dental pain
4. Sought by petition
5. Expression of opposition
6. Keeping dishonestly
7. Immoderate
8. Author's earnings

Take a set of letters from each column and combine them to form a nine-letter answer to each clue. Once finished, the remaining sets of letters will spell out another nine-letter word. This is your answer.

**President Obama delivers his final State of the Union**

In a sweeping rhetorical indictment of anti-science philosophy, like climate change denial, President Barack Obama avoided a litany of policy proposals in favor of big ideas at his final State of the Union speech.

**Alabama chief justice: No gay marriage in my state**

Judges who follow his order risk being held in contempt of court for violating the federal ruling.

**Texas 'affluenza' teen taken into custody in Mexico**

Ethan Couch became known as the "affluenza" teen during his trial in juvenile court, when a psychologist said he was so wealthy and spoiled he could not tell the difference between right and wrong.

**Militiamen occupy wildlife refuge as dispute flares**

The armed occupation is part of a decades-old conflict between ranchers and the federal government.

**North Korea claims first successful H-bomb test**

The news set off alarm bells in Japan and South Korea.

**'Trumponomics' could cause a recession: Economists**

A new report from Politico has experts explaining the Donald's fiscal plan.

**Legendary rock musician David Bowie dies at age 69**

A light has gone out in the world.

**Wrong contestant crowned Miss Universe by host**

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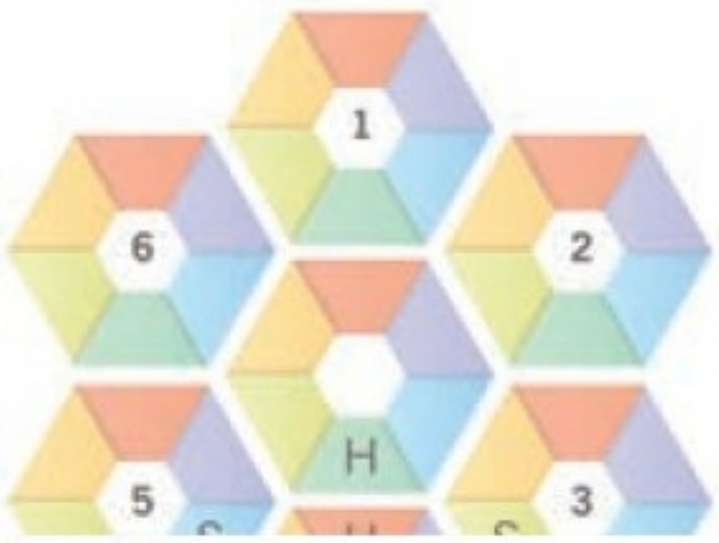
metro.us/games

# Hexagon Word




**Clues:**

1. Untenanted
2. Hypnotic state
3. Eighth month
4. Spray
5. Opens
6. Recent

# Mix 'n' Match

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| TOO | LHA | TEE |
| EXC | ANC | TED |
| FIN | MIT | ION |
| FOO | THA | ING |
| OBJ | ICI | IVE |
| POC | ECT | IES |
| ROY | KET | IER |

**Clues:**

1. Banker
2. Decision-making group
3. Dental pain
4. Sought by petition
5. Expression of opposition
6. Keeping

Goodbye, Monthly Fee.

Make one deposit, withdrawal, transfer or payment, and pay no Monthly Fee.

Santander